

**ANIMAL PROTECTION & CONTROL
ADVISORY BOARD**

**Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2002**

In Attendance:

Linda Cox
Bill Osborn
Debi Bidelman
Shirley Malar
Carol Williams
Dr. Liz Grauer
Ed Anderson
Deen Adolphe

Staff:

Tim Jennings
Jennene Maitland

Rick Collord
Pat Jollota
Pat McDonnell - Guest

I. Call to Order:

Greg Ellison contacted Animal Protection & Control (APC) to say he would not be able to attend the meeting. Carol Williams called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

II. Reading & Approval of the January 2002 minutes:

Minutes were approved as written.

III. Orders of the Day

Guest – Pat McDonnell

Pat McDonnell, Vancouver's City Manager, is also the former County Administrator. He attended the Advisory Board meeting to discuss the annual report and the advisory board's long range planning. Pat said he couldn't give enough thanks the Advisory board members for the countless hours they volunteer. He stated between Tim Jennings and the Advisory Board, there's been great continuity in partnerships and developing strategic planning.

New Advisory Board Member

Deen Adolphe was introduced as the newest addition to the Advisory Board. Deen is filling the position of cat owner. He was formerly a member of the Board of Directors for the SW Washington Humane Society. He's very interested in being on the Advisory Board and helping in his community. He has been deputized for handicapped parking patrol. Tim Jennings said APC is very interested in a similar program regarding neighborhood &/or park animal watch for leash law violations. Pat McDonnell and Tim Jennings discussed the significant increase in complaints regarding the amount of off leash dogs in parks. And the methods animal control

uses to encourage use of leashes in high foot traffic areas, such as the Discovery Trail. Animal control refers to these methods as the Enhanced Parks/School Patrols.

Advisory Board Annual Report

Pat McDonnell discussed the five-year plan and long range planning in general. The City of Vancouver has been planning month to month since the cut in revenue from I-695. It's been difficult doing year to year reporting to the State Legislature and it's been a challenge to look at different alternative for revenues, for example, volunteers. They've gotten away from business planning, or as the county refers to it as strategic planning.

He suggested one of the things to ask is "How is the department affected by the budget?" Key objectives to putting the five-year plan are, assume there are no changes in the previous five-year plan and no increase in revenue or staff increases. The 1997 5 Year Plan used the terminology of mandated, essential and discretionary services when describing programs and funding sources. One of the City's goals is in establishing foundations so the public doesn't have to go through the County/City bureaucracy and new partnership opportunities with the community to provide services.

The past advisory board annual reports form the basis for the issues reviewed for the 5 Year Plan. The 2001 report will use the same template as the prior reports. Advisory Board members were asked to take the time to look it over and suggest any ideas or changes by phone, or email, to Tim before the next advisory board meeting.

Carol Williams asked if the city/county seeks other revenue from other than state funding? The Greater Clark County Kennel Club dog show is in the top 35 shows out of 1,400 ranging across the U.S. and they are being turned down right and left in Clark County and City of Vancouver for relocating their annual dog show. One of the few options left to them is to relocate their show to Oregon. They've managed to save approx. 1 million dollars to purchase a minimum 40 acres and have even considered different options such as working with other associations like little league, equestrian groups, the new location for the SW Washington Humane Society or even a dog park. Their looking for something they can develop and use for their events not for everyday use. Pat McDonnell advised there is a lot of property available in beautiful areas. It would have to be a partnership with the city, Brush Prairie Kennel Association and the public. For example the noise impact it would have. The property they are looking for may even need to be even more remote. Carol mentioned she's previously spoken with Steve Duh with the Vancouver/Clark Parks and recreation department and he suggested she put a plan together to propose their ideas.

The Community S/N Assistance Program and the Pet Licensing Low Income Assistance Program were generally discussed. Some recommendations for this years application and review process will be submitted to the board next month. Last year animal control did a big push in low-income areas for licensing and didn't get many returned applications. The public didn't take advantage of the low income licensing. It could possibly mean some funds available for the Community S/N Assistance program and possibly an emergency veterinary fund for animals in foster care.

Carol suggested to not give up on the low-income assistance program completely.

Dr. Grauer suggested raising the amount of the fine for animals running at large while they are still fertile. Then waive a portion of the fine when the owners spay or neuter their pets and even offer them spay/neuter assistance. Rick Collord mentioned when an owner relinquishes puppies to the humane society, they offer to take the puppies for the fee of \$50 or they offer to spay the mother for free and take the puppies for free.

Shirley suggested that it doesn't seem that there would be that many more appeals if the fines were increased.

Tim Jennings said the past intent of the fines wasn't to recover true costs, but to offer incentives to get the animals fixed. That was a key issue in raising unaltered licenses, but keeping redemption fees low. Higher redemption fees could lead to fewer redemptions and more appeals of the fees. The average cost for one appeal, including staff and other related costs is \$800 to \$1,000. Just by establishing the Advisory Board Hearing Tribunal, it saved animal control approx. \$3,600 in hearing officer time/fees. (See annual report)

It was generally discussed that if the fines are too large people tend to just walk away and never deal with the problems.

APC Statistical Report

A copy of the year-end statistic report was mailed to the Advisory Board members prior to the meeting. (See report.) A consistent gain in service demand is recorded. It was discussed how the key performance measure of time of response suffers as a result.

No More Homeless Pets Report

Tim thanked the SW Washington Humane Society staff for facilitating the No More Homeless Pet meetings and for working on the adopt-a-thon at Hannah Motors again. The minutes are a very effective tool for developing the Coalition and future requests for the Maddy fund. (See Coalition minutes)

IV . Roundtable

Deen Adolphe mentioned he is happy to be apart of the Advisory Board and hopes to be able to lend his experience in the future.

Bill Osborn likes the Animal Control general brochure.

Ed Anderson mentioned the West Columbia Gorge Humane Society is opening it's doors officially on March 5, 2002.

Rich Carson, Director of Community Development and possibly Bill Barron the County Administrator will be guests in the coming months and possibly someone from the budget office or Toby LaFrance, the finance manager from Community Development, to discuss the budget issues.

Animal Control's license officer John Scukanec, who was a key element in implementing a new licensing enforcement program while he was here, has moved on to become a Code Enforcement Officer with the County. While John will be missed, the other license officer Kevin Mohan is doing just as good a job implementing licensing.

Rick Collord gave the shelter report (see report).

Rick Collord introduced Cindy Bishop, the new director of Operations for the SW WA Humane Society. She's here from Gainesville, FL.

Rick also stated Critter Camp is scheduled again for summer in the Fruit Valley Park.

The walls are up on the new building, and a slab is being poured. Things are coming along with better weather.

The walk-a-thon is coming up soon.

V. New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

VI. Public Forum

Dana Malone from Second Chance Companions sent a report, displaying where the funds are being used since they've received the grant for the Community Spay/Neuter Assistance program. (See attached report)

Alex Rheinhold, President and Co-founder of Lucky Dog, stated he is also on the Battle Ground City Council. He mentioned that there was a workshop regarding stray cats. So far no luck implementing changes for cats. He also mentioned Lucky Dog has adopted out 183 dogs and anything over seven weeks of age gets spayed or neutered.

Diana Sterle with Spotted Paw has just started out with the funds she's receiving from Community Spay/Neuter Assistance program and has just had her first set of dalmations, previously a pair of breeding dogs, fixed.

VII. Adjournment

Carol adjourned the meeting at 7:51 p.m.

Hearing Tribunal

Shirley Milar
Linda Cox
Carol Williams

H:Advbd/02-02minutes